

PROGRAM REPORT

Rice Pesticide Program

The Rice Pesticide Program is a longstanding watershed effort whereby rice growers follow Board-approved management practices contained in use permits obtained from Agricultural Commissioners when applying selected rice pesticides. The Program includes monitoring of Sacramento Valley agricultural drains and the Sacramento River by the California Rice Commission (CRC). The Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento also conduct monitoring at their drinking water intakes on the Sacramento River for two rice pesticides, thiobencarb and molinate. Monitoring is conducted twice weekly during the peak discharge period for six weeks from May until early June. Despite reports of record rice plantings in 2004, the monitoring conducted by the two cities did not detect thiobencarb at either of the intakes. Molinate was detected at both intakes, however the peak level detected (0.35 ppb at the City of West Sacramento) was lower than last year's peak of 0.53 ppb and far below the 20 ppb primary maximum contaminant level (MCL). Staff anticipates receiving the CRC monitoring results in the next several months followed by an their submittal of an annual Program report by the end of the calendar year.